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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/857,614      | 06/06/2001  | Atsushi Okawa        | 14666               | 5173             |

7590 12/28/2005

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2878

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 17 October 2005 was filed after the mailing date of the non-final on 14 July 2005. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the IDS is being considered by the examiner.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 29-32, 39-43, 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 29, it is unclear how the optical probe scans "just an optical fiber. Further, how are the two sets of parallel plate structures incorporated into the two-dimensional scanner? Please clarify.

With respect to claim 30, how are the two sets of parallel plate structures incorporated into the two-dimensional scanner? Please clarify.

In claim 39, line 5; claim 40, line 5; claim 41, line 5; claim 42, line 5; claim 43, line 6; and claim 46, line 7, "the fixed part" lacks a proper antecedent basis.

With respect to claim 45, line 5, "the signal line" lacks a proper antecedent basis.

Those claims not specifically mentioned are indefinite due to their dependency.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 2878

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/27865 to Koivisto et al.

Koivisto et al. disclose an optical scanning probe system comprising: a mounting component for detachably mounting at least one of a plurality of types of optical scanning probes having scanning components for scanning an examination site with the focal point of observation light emitted by a light source device; a recognition component for recognizing the type of optical scanning probe mounted to the mounting component; and a control device for controlling the scanning components in the optical scanning probe according to the type of the optical scanning probe recognized by the recognition component (see page 6, lines 26-28; page 9, lines 8-19 and page 10, line 25 – page 11, line 9).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 2-28, 33-38, 44 and 47-55 are allowed over the prior art.

Claim 56 remains withdrawn from further consideration as directed a non-elected invention.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-55 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2878

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephone B. Allen whose telephone number is 571-272-2434. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 08:30-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on 571-272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Stephone B Allen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2878

sba